AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) Method for transmitting/receiving data packet frames in a multi-channel wireless transmission system, the method comprising the steps of receiving a plurality of data packets (A, B, C, ...) to be transmitted; and providing a number (*n* and *p*) of radio channels (VC-X#1, VC-X#2, ...) for performing the transmission, the radio channels including one or more working channels (*n*) and one or more protection channels (*p*), characterized by the steps of assigning the entire transport of each data packet (A, B, C, ...) to one radio channel (VC-X#1, VC-X#2, ...) and, in absence of failures, performing the transmission by using all the available working and protection channels.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, characterized by the step of, in case a radio channel becomes affected by a failure in at least one direction, disabling the failure-affected channel (VC-X#3lr) in the opposite direction and assigning the entire transport of each of the further single data packets (A, B, C, ...) to corresponding single radio channels (VC-X#1, VC#X-2, ...) of the remaining unfailed radio channels.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 2, characterized in that the step of disabling the failure-affected channel comprises the steps of: detecting that a channel has become affected

by a failure; communicating (443r), through a first communication channel (CC1), the channel failure to a corresponding path source block (463r); transferring the failure information to the corresponding path sink block (483l); and finally forwarding the failure information to the path source block (423l) of the transmitting side through a second communication channel (CC2).

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized by the step, at the transmitting side, of attaching a sequence label/number to every data packet (A, B, C, ...) that is transmitted and, at the receiving side, of reordering the data packets according to the proper sequence label/number.

5. (Original) Apparatus for transmitting/receiving data packet frames in a multi-channel wireless transmission system comprising a number (*n* and *p*) of radio channels (VC-X#1, VC-X#2, ...) for performing the transmission, the radio channels including at least one working channel and at least one protection channel, the apparatus (NE#0, NE#1) comprising interfaces for receiving a plurality of data packets (A, B, C, ...) to be radio transmitted and interfaces for outputting packets that have been received from a remote radio apparatus; a number (*n* and *p*) of transmitters (421l-424l; 461r-464r); and a corresponding number (*n* and *p*) of receivers (441r-444r; 481l-484l), characterized by further comprising a dispatcher (42l; 42r) for assigning each packet (A, B, C, ...) to a transmitter so that the entire transport of each data packet (A, B, C, ...) is made by one radio channel (VC-X#1, VC-X#2, ...) and in that, in absence of failures, the transmission is performed by using all the available working and protection channels.

6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that it further comprises a communication channel (CC1; CC2) from reporting channel failure information between a transmitter (421l-424l; 461r-464r) and a receiver (441r-444r; 481l-484l).

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1~~ or 2~~, characterized in that means are provided in the transmitting side for attaching a sequence label/number to every data packet (A, B, C, ...) that is transmitted and, in the receiving side, for reordering the data packets according to the proper sequence label/number.